



## News Release

UNITED STATES AIR FORCE

### 910<sup>TH</sup> Airlift Wing (AFRC)

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### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

**"Brig. Gen. and Mrs. Gjede honored by  
nomination for Air Force O'Malley award"**

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**YOUNGSTOWN AIR RESERVE STATION, OHIO** – Although they were not selected by the Air Force as recipients of the 2004 General and Mrs. Jerome F. O'Malley Award, Brig. Gen. Michael Gjede and his wife Jerlynn are honored that Air Force Reserve Command nominated them for it.

The O'Malley award recognizes the wing commander and spouse team whose contributions to the nation, the Air Force and the local community best exemplify the highest ideals and positive leadership of a military couple in a key Air Force position.

The award is named after O'Malley and his wife Diane, who were killed in a 1985 aircraft crash while en route to a Boy Scout fundraising banquet in Scranton, Pa. O'Malley was commander of Tactical Air Command at the time.

"Just to be the couple nominated by 22<sup>nd</sup> Air Force and then Air Force Reserve Command is an honor beyond belief," said General Gjede. "Community involvement is important and having Jerlynn as my teammate makes it a pleasure," he said.

General Gjede became the commander of the 910<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing in March 1998. He relinquished his command of the wing to Col. Timothy J. Thomson during a June 20 Change of Command ceremony at the base and will officially retire from the Air Force Reserve June 30.

General and Mrs. Gjede have been closely involved in all aspects of the 910<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing making key contributions to all levels of base-sponsored programs and providing unprecedented leadership by example. They have both been key participants in the annual Joint Services Youth Camp held at the base for children of military members with General Gjede serving as head chef and Mrs. Gjede performing duties as chief counselor to the children.

Mrs. Gjede also led the way to establishing the wing's Pilot for a Day program while she worked at the MCI call center in Niles. She was able to coordinate corporate sponsorship from MCI to get the program going five years ago.

Literally parents to all members of the wing, both of the Gjede's are present at almost every deployment and homecoming for wing members involved with the U.S. War on Terrorism.

General Gjede serves on both the Board of Directors of the Youngstown-Warren Regional Chamber of Commerce and the Trumbull County Chapter of the American Red Cross. Together, the couple has hosted the extremely successful Red Cross MASH BASH fund raiser at the base, netting over \$10,000 in contributions to the Red Cross emergency services programs at this year's event alone.

In concert with the Marine Corps Reserve Center staff on base, the couple has coordinated storage and transportation of more than 250,000 donated books for the "Books for Mahoning Valley Schools" project. The recipients of these new books have included local shelters, hospitals, daycare centers, parochial and public schools, rehabilitation centers, and children of members of the 910<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing.

General and Mrs. Gjede were one of nine couples competing as finalists for the award at the Air Force level. Air Force officials announced this week that Brig. Gen. and Mrs. Dana T. Atkins, of Misawa Air Base, Japan, were chosen as the recipients of this year's award.

Their leadership of General and Mrs. Gjede has been recognized throughout Youngstown Air Reserve Station, the Mahoning Valley, and the Air Force Reserve.